

UNIDENTIFIED MISSING PERSONS AND NCIC

NATIONAL STRATEGY MEETING ON IDENTIFYING THE UNIDENTIFIED

On November 7th and 8th a strategy group from Utah attended a national conference held in Denver. The meeting was cosponsored by the Office of Justice Programs, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services and the Office on Violence Against Women. Invited guests included federal, state and local law enforcement, coroners and medical examiners, victim advocates, forensic scientists and key policy makers. The meeting addressed two different, but related areas, which have previously lacked attention: missing person cases and unidentified human remains.

As President Bush has stated, "the events of September 11, 2001, demonstrated on a national scale the potential for anguish when the remains of a missing person go unidentified." The U.S. Department of Justice is charged with and committed to identifying the policies and practices that will allow investigative agencies to use every available tool—including DNA—in solving missing persons' cases. Historically, there has been an inability to maximize resources and share information among entities charged with identifying remains and entities conducting investigations.

Utah currently has 9 unidentified persons entered into the NCIC system. The State Medical Examiners Office has approximately 34 unidentified remains. That means there are **25 families** that may never know their missing loved ones were discovered.

As of November 2005 there were 5,942 reported unidentified persons entered in NCIC and 108,511 reported missing persons. It is estimated that there are approximately 40,000 cases of unidentified decedents in the U.S., many of which could be matched to some of the long-term missing already in the database.

Some shortcomings were identified in the strategy meeting; thus, the number of actual cases is significantly under reported.

- NCIC is not available to coroners/medical examiners
- The Unidentified Persons File has only been available since the mid 1980's
- Advancements in DNA and other laboratory capabilities are not being utilized to their fullest potential.
- Inaccurate entries into the system prevent accurate matches against the missing persons files
- Cases prior to the initiation of the NCIC database of unidentified persons have generally not been entered, primarily because:
 - Cost and time required
 - Lack of available resources
 - No mandatory reporting requirements for missing adults, unidentified, or human remains.
- Few agencies enter body parts or partial remains into the system.
- Poor or inaccurate reporting of dental records.
- No dental records ever retrieved for entry.
- Improper photography of victim inhibits identification.
- Frequently, photos never leave autopsy file.
- Inadequate fingerprinting.
- Inadequate reporting of identifiable features, such as: scars, marks, tattoos, physical abnormalities, etc.
- NCIC purged unidentified in the years 1993 and 1994.
- State laws are vague on missing and unidentified persons.

The Utah Bureau of Criminal Identification is the only entity within our state that can enter unidentified persons, human remains and dental entry for missing persons or the unidentified deceased. The only centralized location for the information or possible matches nationwide is the National Crime Information Center. If it is not utilized or the unidentified person or human remains

are not entered into NCIC then there is the chance cases will remain cold and individuals will never be identified. The goal is to work together. For further information contact Gina McMahon at 801-965-4686 or gmcMahon@utah.gov

2006 TAC CONFERENCE URBAN LEGEND

CORRECTING AN URBAN LEGEND!

Each ORI must send a representative to the 2006 conference. Even if you passed all your required tests in 2005, you must still attend the 2006 conference. (You will not have to take the 2006 test, but you must still attend the conference.)

Please watch for further details on the 2006 TAC Conference.

ACCESS TO DRIVER LICENSE FAX SERVER

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2006, the driver license fax server will no longer be available. Digitized driver license photos are available through the UCJIS system. Agencies can call BCI's 24-Hour Help Desk at 801-965-4446 for further information.

Agencies, other than law enforcement, can contact Chuck Collett for access information: He can be reached at 801-965-4409 or by fax at 801-965-4749.

Please contact BCI's Help Desk or Chuck Collett as soon as possible prior to the effective date. Access to the driver license photos must be approved through the Bureau of Criminal Identification, not the Driver License Division.

If the individual's driver license photo is not available through the web, you may contact the Driver License Division. As of September 2005, approximately 52 percent of current driver license holders had a digitized license. However, some drivers will still have the "old" non-digitized licenses until 2011.

EXPUNGEMENTS

ALL AGENCIES: Please do not tell members of the public that BCI can do an expungement in one day. Many people come to BCI believing that their criminal history will be expunged that day, and

get very frustrated when we tell them it will take up to eight weeks before BCI can determine their expungement eligibility.

For more information on the expungement laws and procedures, please see BCI's web site at <http://www.bci.utah.gov/Records/Expunge.html>

NLETS VEHICLE INFORMATION – DIPLOMATIC & GOV'T PLATES

From the NLETS manual:

12.1.2 Query Requirements

Vehicle Make and Vehicle Year are required for queries by VIN to Missouri. They are optional for all other states.

Each Registration Query (RQ / RQG) can be sent to up to five state or regional codes.

To access information on diplomatic plates use the 2-character destination code "US".

To access information on government plates use the 2-character destination code "GS".

24-HOUR CONTACT INFORMATION

NCIC policy mandates that a 24-hour confirmation number be placed on all entries when the originating agency is not available 24 hours a day. Section 1.3 of the Introduction Section of the *NCIC 2000 Operating Manual* states:



1.3 RESPONSIBILITY FOR RECORDS

1. NCIC 2000 records must be kept accurate and up-to-date. Agencies that enter records in the NCIC 2000 System are responsible for their accuracy, timeliness, and completeness. To facilitate compliance with hit confirmation requirements, the originating agency must be available 24 hours a day to confirm its record entries. Non-terminal agencies must sign a "Holder of the Record" agreement with a 24-hour agency delineating the responsibility for hit confirmation. Originating agencies that are not available 24 hours must place instructions for after-hour hit confirmation, e.g. a 24-hour contact telephone number or an Originating Agency Identifier (ORI) in the Miscellaneous Field.

PIN CHANGES

We've made some changes to the PIN numbers! When your PIN expires you can now create your own PIN. Hopefully this will make the PINs a little easier to remember!

Changing the PIN will be similar to changing the password and both will use the following criteria:

- ♦ The new value must be 8 characters long
- ♦ There must be at least one letter and one number in the new value
- ♦ The new value can only contain characters a through z, A through Z, 0 through 9, or one of the following: ! @ # \$ % ^ & * () _ - = + ; : . < > ' , " ? [] { } }
- ♦ The new value must never have been used before
- ♦ The new value cannot have 5 characters in a row that are the same as either your existing password or PIN

(If your dog's name is "Fluffy," you cannot make your password Fluffy01 and your PIN Fluffy02.)

The "CPW" and "CPIN" transactions will no longer bring you to the same screen.

WAY TO GO!

Congratulations to all Utah agencies!

During the months of April, May and June 2005, no Utah agencies had NCIC errors dealing with improper extradition limitations, no improperly placed locate messages, and best of all – NO HIT CONFIRMATIONS WENT TO A THIRD REQUEST!

We appreciate all the work you do to make the NCIC system work to its full potential.

"SOURCE CARDS"

BCI is now entering the identification information on non-serious offenses for individuals who do not have a Utah criminal record. If you see a record with only identification information look in the remarks for the message "SOURCE CARD ONLY, NO ARRESTS, FINGERPRINTS ON FILE AT BCI."

If you are doing a background on an individual, and the only response you receive is a "Source Card" that would be considered the same thing as having no criminal record.

NO PRINTS FOR POST CERTIFIED INDIVIDUALS

TACs – please remember that BCI does not require fingerprints for individuals who are POST Certified. (Unless that individual has a criminal history.)

Also, remember to use the updated Logon Activation/Delete Request Form and Fingerprint Submission/Background Check Form located on the TAC website (and the 2005 *BCI Operations Manual*). Please make sure you COMPLETELY fill out the form, or BCI may return the form to you!

UCR/IBR

WELL DONE!

Congratulations to the Cache-Rich Drug Task Force, Grantsville PD, Helper PD, and Wasatch County Sheriff, who had no NIBRS errors between July 2004 and June 2005.

The following agencies also deserve kudos for having an average error rate of 1% or below during the same time period: Carbon County Sheriff, Clearfield PD, Duchesne County Sheriff, Logan PD, Murray PD, North Salt Lake PD, Price PD, Provo PD, Sandy PD, South Salt Lake PD, SUU PD, Tooele PD, Utah County Major Crimes Task Force, West Jordan PD, and the West Valley PD.

(Data as of November 23, 2005. Only agencies that submitted a full 12 months of data in the time frame were considered.)

MISSING PERSONS

TRAINING FOR CHILD ABDUCTION RESPONSE TEAMS

During 2006, the Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs (OJP) will conduct regional training for Child Abduction Response Teams (CART) to respond quickly to incidents of missing and abducted children.

The CART regional training will include law enforcement investigators, forensic experts, AMBER Alert coordinators, policy makers, search and rescue professionals, crime intelligence analysts, victim service providers and other interagency resources.

"When a child is abducted, time is of the essence. Trained regional teams will soon be poised to bring

additional resources to help recover children safely and return them to their families," said Cybele K. Daley, Acting Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Justice Programs.

The CART program began in 2005 after the tragic abduction of 11-year-old Carlie Brucia in Sarasota, FL. Local agencies in Florida determined a need for their region to have trained experts in the field of child abduction investigation who could respond to an abduction immediately, assist the lead local law enforcement agency and bring additional regional resources to the recovery effort. OJP has modified Florida's local CART model so it can be adopted by regions nationwide. CART has been activated 13 times and as a result of those activations, 11 children have been recovered in Florida.

CART can be used for all missing children's cases and can be deployed as part of an AMBER Alert or when a child is abducted or missing, but the abduction/disappearance does not meet the AMBER Alert criteria.

AMBER Alerts are issued only when a child abduction meets the specific AMBER Alert criteria, when law enforcement has enough descriptive information about the abductor or the abductor's vehicle to alert the public. CART can also be used to recover runaway children if they are under 18 and are in danger.

In May, OJP joined the wireless industry and other government officials to announce that wireless users can opt to receive geographically specified messages on their wireless devices through an AMBER Alert wireless messaging system.

The PROTECT Act, which President Bush signed into law in April 2003, statutorily established the National AMBER Coordinator and required the coordinator to facilitate AMBER network development, support development of state AMBER plans, help eliminate geographic gaps in AMBER networks, provide regional coordination, and establish guidance on criteria for issuing an AMBER Alert. More information can be found at www.amberalert.gov.

More information about the CART courses can be found here: www.amber-net.org/training.htm#invest

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES FOR INVESTIGATORS INVOLVED WITH MISSING CHILDREN

2006 Regional Training Programs

National AMBER Alert Program training now offered to law enforcement agencies *with little or no cost to the agencies*



A comprehensive training and technical assistance program has been developed by the Department of Justice (DOJ) to develop and enhance AMBER Alert programs and create a seamless AMBER Alert network across the country. Training and technical assistance is designed to increase collaboration, improve skills, and develop more effective policies and practices to protect and safely recover missing children. This assistance is being provided by Fox Valley Technical College.

A wide range of training and technical assistance is available to support enhancement of the AMBER Alert program. Several new courses will be available to local and state law enforcement agencies on a local, state, and regional basis beginning January 2006. The following is a description of some of these offerings.

DESCRIPTION OF COURSES:

Investigative Strategies for Missing and Abducted Children

Designed to provide law enforcement investigators and investigative supervisors with the information necessary to properly understand, recognize, and investigate cases involving missing and abducted children. Participants will get an overview covering scope and scale issues related to missing and abducted children as well as available resources. Participants will become familiar with how to manage a missing or abducted child case including the initial response as well as an overview of interviewing and interrogation techniques. Participants will explore crime scene evidence collection and processing, profiling suspects, and legal issues including search warrants and interrogation related to a missing or abducted child. Hands-on activities will assist participants in developing or improving their own investigative response. Length of program is 4-1/2 days. Target audience: Law enforcement investigative personnel as well as investigative personnel from related child protection agencies.

AMBER and the Media

Designed to enhance the skills of law enforcement investigating a child abduction in which there is media involvement. The training will provide valuable information about the culture of the media, best practices in working with the media, and effective strategies for setting up and holding press conferences as well as engaging the media over the long-term. Length of program is 2 days. Target audience: Law enforcement professionals ranging from first responders to CEO's.

Prosecutors' Strategies in Child Abduction Cases

Intended for local, state, and federal prosecutors who handle child abduction cases. It covers aspects of prosecuting family abduction and stranger abduction cases. In addition, prosecutors will learn when and how to use civil law to resolve interstate and international family abduction cases. Child-sensitive guidance will be provided on interviewing abducted children and on recovery and reunification techniques. Length of program is 2 days. Target audience: Local, state, and federal prosecutors, and prosecutor coordinators from every state.

Child Abduction Response Teams (CART)

CART is a team program designed to provide information on the development and use of an interagency-multidisciplinary response team to incidents of missing and abducted children. Participating teams will develop an outline that can be used to execute an effective action plan. Team members will receive training and information about the resources that may be required during the course of the investigation. Length of program is 4-1/2 days. Target audience: Attendance for this program requires team participation. A minimum of 4 and a maximum of 6 team members are permitted. Team member requirements are included on the CART application form.

Forensic Response for Missing and Abducted Children



Designed to provide training in the recognition, documentation, collection, and preservation of evidence from the time a child is reported missing until the case is resolved. Topics covered include: pre-planning, chain of custody issues, evidence security, crime scene identification and preservation, crime mapping and photography, trace evidence, fingerprints/palm prints, DNA/body fluids, composite sketching/forensic art, and electronic evidence. Hands-on, facilitated activities will give participants an opportunity to apply techniques taught in class. Length of program is 2 days. Target audiences: Law enforcement professionals including crime scene personnel, first responders, and investigators.

Leadership Issues for Missing and Abducted Children Cases

Designed for law enforcement managers and executives who make policy-level decisions that effect the administration and implementation of AMBER Alert Plans. Topics covered include scope and scale issues related to missing and abducted children, key components of an AMBER policy, elements of a comprehensive child recovery plan, the use and development of memorandums of understanding, and effective strategies for working with the media. Case studies will be used to exemplify the course content and participants will have the opportunity to improve their AMBER Alert/Child recovery plan through guided facilitation. Length of program is 2 days. Target audience: Law enforcement managers and executives.

Additional information can be found at <http://www.amber-net.org/training.htm>

For training given by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children you can go to: <http://dept.fvtc.edu/ojdp/> or contact Gina McMahon at 801-965-4686 or gmcMahon@utah.gov

Happy New Year from BCI - and thanks for all the work you do!

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